In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 9 with the following re-written paragraph:

Electrostatic filter 50 may be removably receivably mounted in or above outlet 36 by any means known in the art such as by being secured therein by a friction fit, a screw thread, a bayonet mount, male and female engagement means or the like. Referring to Figure 3, wall 142 has angled flange members 216 provided on the inner surface thereof on which filter 50 is seated. A locking means, such as a hinged flap or a deformable flange 218 may be used to lockingly hold filter 50 in position when the vacuum cleaner 100 is in operation. As shown in Figure 18, a plate 242 which is secured to housing 208 by screws is used to lock electrostatic filter in lid 150.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 14 with the following re-written paragraph:

Pursuant to these embodiments, electrostatic filter 50, as shown in Figure 8, is constructed from a plurality of layers 180 positioned in series and preferably immediately adjacent each other. For example, electrostatic filter 50 may comprise from 1 to 200 layers of electrically conductive material 180, preferably from 20 to 80 layers and, more preferably from 40 to 100 layers. The layers define a gas flow path through electrostatic filter 50. Various different constructions may be utilized to produce a fluid flow path. In the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 50 11, each layer 180 is constructed of a porous material such that the gas passes through each layer 180 sequentially. Accordingly, while a particular charged particle may not be retained in the first or second layers through which it passes, provided a sufficient number of layers 180 are provided, then statistically, essentially all of the charged particles entering electrostatic precipitator 50 will be retained. In this way, it has been possible to construct an electrostatic precipitator which will retain approximately 99% of the charged particles passing there through.